

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MORG, GR

SUBJ: CASHIERED NAVY OFFICERS REINSTATED

1. BY DECISION OF MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE GREEK
NAVAL OFFICERS CASHIERED OR RETIRED BY PAPADOPOULOS
REGIME FOLLOWING ABORTIVE MUTINY MAY 1973 WILL BE REINSTATED.
DECISION DID NOT SPECIFY NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND MEN
INVOLVED BUT ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES ABOUT 100
PERSONS WILL BENEFIT. MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT SAID
REINSTATEMENT OF OFFICERS IN OTHER SERVICES WAS NOT
CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

2. IN COMMENT ON DEFENSE DECISION, ADMIRAL ENGOLFOPOULOS,
EX-CHIEF OF HELLENIC NAVY, WHO WAS ARRESTED FOLLOWING
MAY 22, 1973 MUTINY PLOT, SAID REINSTATEMENT OF PURGED
OFFICERS WOULD REBUILD NAVY. AIR FORCE GENERAL ATONAKOS
EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT NAVAL OFFICERS WERE BEING
RESTORED TO DUTY BUT THOUGHT AIR FORCE FILES SHOULD ALSO BE
REVIEWED. ARMY GENERAL TZANNETIS VOICED SIMILAR OPINION
CONCERNING CASHIERED HELLENIC ARMY OFFICERS, OBSERVING THAT
ARMY OFFICERS REAPPOINTED AFTER DISMISAL BY METAXAS IN
1936 WERE SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATED INTO REGULAR RANKS.

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3. COMMENT: REINSTATING OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN

1973 NAVY MUTINY AND OTHERS CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO SETTLE
WELL WITH CERTAIN ZEALOTS IN MILITARY, PARTICULARLY THOSE
WHO MAY HAVE BENEFITED FROM PREMATURE RETIREMENT OF
COLLEAGUES. OSTENSIBLE REASON FOR REINSTATEMENT, I.E.
TO REBUILD HELLENIC NAVY, IS VALID SINCE TRADITIONALLY
CONSERVATIVE, PRO-MONARCHIST NAVY HAS SUFFERED MORE IN MORALE
AND STANDING THAN OTHER SERVICES SINCE PAPADOPOULOS TAKEOVER,
EXPECIALLY SINCE MAY, 1973. AT SAME TIME REINSTATEMENT CAN
BE VIEWED AS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MOVE OF CARAMANLIS
GOVERNMENT IN PROCESS OF RESTORING PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN
CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ELEMENTS IN GREEK POWER EQUATION.
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